

Claims

1. (Currently amended) A circuit for distributing a clock signal having a clock frequency in an integrated circuit having a plurality of metal layers therein, comprising:

a capacitive clock distribution circuit having at least one conductor therein; and

at least one inductor in addition to the capacitive clock distribution circuit,

wherein said at least one inductor is formed in a metal layer of the integrated circuit, said at least one inductor being coupled to said at least one conductor and having an inductance value selected such that the at least one inductor and the capacitive clock distribution circuit comprise a resonant circuit having a resonance frequency substantially equal to the clock frequency.
2. (Original) The circuit for distributing a clock signal, as defined by claim 1, wherein the at least one conductor in the clock distribution circuit includes a clock grid.
3. (Original) The circuit for distributing a clock signal, as defined by claim 2, wherein the at least one conductor in the clock distribution circuit further includes a tree distribution circuit coupled to the clock grid.
4. (Original) The circuit for distributing a clock signal, as defined by claim 3, wherein the integrated circuit has a plurality of operating sectors and wherein the at least one conductor further comprises a tree distribution circuit corresponding to a respective one of the sectors of the integrated circuit.
5. (Original) The circuit for distributing a clock signal, as defined by claim 1, wherein the at least

one inductor includes a plurality of inductors distributed throughout the clock distribution circuit.

6. (Original) The circuit for distributing a clock signal, as defined by claim 5, wherein the plurality of inductors each take the form of a spiral inductor.

7. (Original) The circuit for distributing a clock signal, as defined by claim 6, further comprising a plurality of decoupling capacitors formed in the integrated circuit, each one of the plurality of decoupling capacitors corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of spiral inductors, wherein each one of the spiral inductors is coupled to a power-ground grid potential in the integrated circuit by a corresponding decoupling capacitor.

8. (Original) The circuit for distributing a clock signal, as defined by claim 1, further comprising at least one decoupling capacitor formed in the integrated circuit, wherein the at least one inductor is coupled to a power-ground grid potential by the at least one decoupling capacitor formed in the integrated circuit.

9. (Currently Amended) A circuit for providing a clock signal in an integrated circuit comprising: a clock driver circuit, the clock driver circuit providing a clock signal having a clock frequency; a clock distribution circuit having at least one conductor therein, the clock distribution circuit being coupled to receive the clock signal from the clock driver circuit; and a plurality of additional inductors coupled to the clock distribution circuit, the plurality of additional inductors being spatially distributed throughout the clock distribution circuit and having a total inductance value such that the additional inductors and the clock distribution

circuit form a resonant circuit having a resonance frequency substantially equal to the clock frequency.

10. (Original) The circuit for providing a clock signal, as defined by claim 9, wherein the at least one conductor in the clock distribution circuit includes a clock grid.

11. (Original) The circuit for providing a clock signal, as defined by claim 10, wherein the at least one conductor in the clock distribution circuit further includes a tree distribution circuit coupled to the clock grid.

12. (Original) The circuit for providing a clock signal, as defined by claim 11, wherein the integrated circuit has a plurality of operating sectors and wherein the at least one conductor further comprises a plurality of tree distribution circuits corresponding to respective ones of the plurality of operating sectors of the integrated circuit.

13. (Original) The circuit for providing a clock signal, as defined by claim 12, wherein the clock driver circuit includes a plurality of buffer amplifiers, wherein each one of the plurality of tree distribution circuits corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of operating sector is coupled to at least one of the plurality of buffer amplifiers.

14. (Original) The circuit for a clock signal, as defined by claim 13, wherein the clock distribution circuit includes at least one further tree distribution circuit, said further tree distribution circuit being coupled to the buffer amplifiers in a plurality of sectors of the

integrated circuit.

15. (Original) The circuit for providing a clock signal, as defined by claim 12, wherein the clock driver circuit comprises a plurality of phase lock loop circuits, wherein each one of the plurality of tree distribution circuits corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of operative sectors is coupled through the at least one of the plurality of buffer amplifiers to at least one of the plurality of phase lock loop circuits.

16. (Original) The circuit for providing a clock signal, as defined by claim 9, wherein each one of the plurality of inductors is a spiral inductor.

17. (Original) The circuit for providing a clock signal, as defined by claim 16, further comprising a plurality of decoupling capacitors formed in the integrated circuit, each one of the plurality of decoupling capacitors corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of spiral inductors, wherein the spiral inductors are coupled to a power-ground grid potential in the integrated circuit by a corresponding one of the plurality of decoupling capacitors.

18. (Original) The circuit for providing a clock signal, as defined by claim 17, wherein a voltage potential at a junction of one of the plurality of spiral inductors and a corresponding one of the plurality of the decoupling capacitors is provided as a reference voltage for pseudodifferential switching of the clock signal.

19. (Original) The circuit for providing a clock signal, as defined by claim 9, further comprising

at least one capacitor switchably coupled to the clock distribution circuit, whereby the total capacitance of the clock distribution circuit can be tuned by switching said at least one capacitor.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing a clock signal having a clock frequency in an integrated circuit having at least one clock distribution conductor therein, comprising:
determining the capacitance of clock distribution conductor and circuitry coupled thereto;
determining the inductance value of at least one parallel connected inductor in addition to the clock distribution conductor and circuitry coupled thereto required to form a resonance circuit with the clock distribution conductor and the circuitry coupled thereto, having a resonance frequency equal to the clock frequency; and coupling the at least one parallel-connected inductor to said clock distribution conductor to provide said inductance value.